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E-003110/2026

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(22.10.2026)

The EU has a strategic interest in a stable and secure environment in the Eastern Mediterranean and continues to expect all countries to respect the sovereignty and the sovereign rights of all Member States, in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)¹. Abstaining from unilateral actions, which run counter to EU interests, violate international law and the sovereign rights of Member States, remains an essential requirement to ensure a stable and secure environment in the Eastern Mediterranean.

As recalled by the European Council in June 2025², the Türkiye-Libya Memorandum of Understanding on the delimitation of maritime jurisdictions in the Mediterranean Sea infringes upon the sovereign rights of third states, does not comply with the Law of the Sea and cannot produce any legal consequences for third states.

The EU firmly believes that maritime delimitation disputes need to be settled by peaceful means, notably through good faith negotiations, and in full respect of international law, including UNCLOS.

¹ https://www.un.org/depts/los/convention_agreements/convention_overview_convention.htm.

² <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/cjtb3oep/20250626-european-council-conclusions-en.pdf>.